

# LIFESTYLES

## NEWS FROM OUR SERVICE FOLKS

### Betsy Adkinson graduates from U.S. Coast Guard Academy recently

Coast Guard Seaman Betsy Adkinson, daughter of Charlotte T. and Steven E. Adkinson of Elba, Ala., recently graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Recruit Training Center in Cape May, N.J.

During the eight-week training program, Adkinson completed a rigorous training curriculum consisting of classroom academics and practical instruction on water safety and survival, military customs and courtesies, seamanship skills, first aid, fire fighting and marksmanship. A major emphasis is also placed on physical fitness, health and wellness.

Adkinson and other recruits also received instruction on the Coast Guard's three core values

— honor, respect and devotion to duty — and how to apply them in their military performance and personal conduct.

Adkinson will join 36,000 other men and women who are the Coast Guard's force.

Men and women train together from the first day in the Coast Guard just as they do aboard ships and shore units throughout the world. To reinforce the team concept, Adkinson, and other recruits were trained in preventing sexual harassment, drug and alcohol awareness, civil rights training, and the basics of the work-life balance, as well as total quality management.

Adkinson is a 2003 graduate of Abeka Academy of Pensacola, Fla.

### Jeremy Pippin graduates from U.S. Coast Guard Recruit Training

Coast Guard Seaman Jeremy M. Pippin, son of Cathy B. and Mark M. Pippin of Elba, Ala., recently graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Recruit Training Center in Cape May, N.J.

During the eight-week training program, Pippin completed a rigorous training curriculum consisting of classroom academics and practical instruction on water safety and survival, military customs and courtesies, seamanship skills, first aid, fire fighting and marksmanship. A major emphasis is also placed on physical fitness, health and wellness.

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Pippin is a 1997 graduate of Elba High School.

### Three Arts Club in Opp to hold Christmas Tour of Homes

The Three Arts Club of Opp will be hosting a Christmas Tour of Homes on Sunday, December 7, 2003. This will be between the hours of 1:00 and 4:00 p.m.

There will be an admission charge of \$5.00.

Tickets can be purchased on

the day of the tour of Homes or at the Opp History House at 208 Whaley St.

Refreshments will be served at the History House, compliments of the Three Arts Club. For further information call Gay Lull at 493-1798.

### Bradley's Florist & Gift Bridal Registry

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INSIDE

Amenda Reeves celebrates her sixth birthday

INSIDE

NB students compete at National 4-H competition

INSIDE

Father/Son duo enjoy successful football season together

# The Elba Clipper

Volume 107, Number 26

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, December 11, 2003

1 Section, 14 Pages Plus 1 Adv. Insert

## Santa visits New Brockton for parade



The holiday season officially began last weekend in New Brockton as the town held its annual Christmas parade and tree lighting ceremony. Many church groups, organizations and community businesses weathered the cold temperatures to show off their holiday spirit. From riding floats decorated in colors representing the season to wearing attire recognized for the occasion, the Christmas event was certainly one for all ages to enjoy. Even St. Nick himself got in on the fun as Santa filled the air with sounds of "ho-ho-ho" and feeling of good cheer. Immediately following the parade, citizens ventured to the town park located next to New Brockton Town Hall for the lighting of the town's Christmas tree. Afterwards, they enjoyed refreshments while singing Christmas carols. Additional pictures from the parade, can be found in this edition of the paper.

### During New Brockton Town Council meeting

## Christmas event committees present checks

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The New Brockton Town Council received good reports from Christmas event committees Monday evening, Dec. 8, during the regular monthly meeting of the council.

Members of the town's Christmas parade committee and Christmas pageant committee reported successful events to council members and brought a smile to everyone's face after the pageant committee presented the town with a check for \$795 and the parade committee presented a check for \$205.

Mayor Charles Cole and council members thanked committee members for all of their hardwork in presenting these holiday events, and council member Johnnie Herron said he found out firsthand how time consuming planning such events can be for the volunteers. He said his heart goes out to every person willing to help with events.

Council members handled a couple of requests from police chief Boyd Hartzog as they voted to hire one part-time officer from that position to full-time with a pay increase.

Cole said hiring this officer as a full-time employee will eliminate two part-time positions and save the town some money.

The council also voted to pay part-time police department employees holiday pay if they work on Christmas Day.

The mayor presented a request from Hartzog asking the town council to support moving junk cars.

According to a town ordinance regarding this matter, a letter will be written to the owner asking him/her to do something with the vehicle. Once the letter is received, the owner has 15 days to do something. If the town has the vehicle removed from the property, the owner will have to pay the mover to get it back.

Cole said the town had stopped this procedure for some reason in the past, but he does not think it should be stopped.

In discussion, all council members voiced their support for following the ordinance and moving junk cars.

Council members discussed fixing roof leaks on the town hall building, and Cole presented three different price quotes.

For \$350 the leaky area over the mayor's office can be patched. For \$975 the whole roof can be patched with a one-year guarantee, and for \$5,940 the roof can be completely recovered with a two-year guarantee.

Considering the time limit for guarantees and the cost amount, the council voted to patch the

roof for \$975 with a one-year guarantee.

In other business, the council: \* Approved a motion to give employees a one-time pay raise of \$50 for full-time and \$25 for part-time. This is something the town does every year for Christmas.

\* Approved a motion to pay the monthly bills totaling \$41,724.65 with \$41,386.65 being prepaid and \$338 to be paid.

\* Received a reminder that the town hall offices will be closed Wednesday, Dec. 24, and Thursday, Dec. 25, in observance of the Christmas holiday.

Christmas parade committee members present for the New Brockton Town Council meeting were (from left): Cal Donnia Howard, co-chairperson; Jim Driskell; Barbara Herron, chairperson; and Jerry Haynes. Other committee members include: Elma Brock, Lyn Manley and Deborah Herron.

## Area Happenings

THE ELBA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DANCE PROGRAM will hold its graduation ceremony for sixth grade students Friday, Dec. 12, at 9 a.m. in the cafeteria. Everyone is invited to attend.

THE FORT RUCKER "SILVER WINGS" BAND will perform the Commemorative General's Holiday Concert Tuesday, Dec. 16, at 7 p.m. in the Fort Rucker Post Theater. The concert is free and open to the public.

THE ELBA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH will have a Live Ministry on December 13, 20 & 27 on the second floor of the church.

THE TINKERER WOMEN will present a Youth Symposium/Prayer Service in New Brockton on Saturday, Jan. 11, and Sunday, Jan. 12. The Youth Symposium will focus on the theme: "Where do you want to go in life?"

## C.C. Water Authority plans sign-up meeting for Phase II of countywide water system project

The Coffee County Water Authority will hold the first public meeting on Thursday, Dec. 11, at 6:30 p.m., at New Hope Baptist Church to sign-up potential customers for Phase II of the countywide water system.

David Hicks, consulting engineer for the Authority, said the sign-up fee is set at \$25 and will be refunded if water service is not provided to the signer at his property line.

"At a meeting in Coffee

County, 89 percent of the rural residents of Alabama now have access to public water and fire protection," said Steve Pelham, state director of the funding agency - rural development. "At this meeting, the USDA Community Development team developed a 'wish list' for Coffee County which included water system improvements for the north half of Coffee County."

Sign-up forms may be obtained from the engineer by

calling (334) 585-5841 or the Water Authority at 894-9254.

The Water Authority intends to serve only those residents desiring public water and potential fire protection. Areas with a few or no sign-ups may be deleted from the project scope.

According to Hicks, it is imperative those parties interested in the future development of north Coffee County assist in obtaining sign-ups from their neighbors.

## It is not too late to be immunized for influenza

While supplies of influenza vaccine are reaching low levels, there is not yet a shortage of vaccine in the state.

"While we have administered thousands of doses of influenza vaccine this year, most county health departments still have some vaccine available," said Winkler Sims, director of the Immunization Division. "December is not too late for Alabamians to be immunized, because influenza season usually peaks in January or February here as it does nationally."

Influenza vaccine can be taken through the end of March. Several groups of people should obtain flu shots because

they are at high risk of complications, such as pneumonia or even death. These groups include persons 50 years old or older; residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities that house persons of any age who have long-term illnesses; adults and children who have chronic heart or lung conditions, including asthma; adults and children who need regular medical care or have been in a hospital because of diseases like diabetes, chronic kidney disease, or weakened immune system; women who will be more than 3 months pregnant during the flu season, children 6-23 months of age

and household contacts of high risk people. Influenza is caused by a virus. In an average year, 20 percent of the population experiences influenza. Symptoms include the sudden onset of fever, cough, headache, body aches, mild sore throat and stuffy nose. Severe symptoms last 2-7 days, but the cough can last for weeks. Some patients become so sick that they need hospitalization and some even die. For more information about the availability of influenza vaccine, contact your local county health department or health care provider.

## Commission supports keeping adult daycare facilities open

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Coffee County Commission pledged its support for two local adult daycare facilities Monday morning, Dec. 8, during the regular bimonthly meeting of the commission.

County administrator Wilson Mobley told those in attendance that limited state funding prohibited the State Department of Public Health and Department of Human Resources from being able to work out an agreement to continue operating the adult daycare facilities in Elba and Enterprise. However, he said Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center had been contacted about taking over the operation.

Mobley said the organization is willing to take over but needs a two-year agreement by letter from the commission showing its support of the operation. He said the organization also will request support from the cities of Elba and Enterprise.

In writing the letter of commitment, the commission would agree to continue to support the adult daycare facilities in the same manner they have to this point. This includes paying the rent and insurance on the buildings.

In an attempt to prevent future problems, commissioners approved a request to appoint a secondary supplier for a few paper and food products recently awarded through bids.

As low bidder, Mobley said Houston Paper was awarded the bid for paper plates at a prior meeting. Monday, he said a problem emerged recently when the jail run out of paper plates and Houston Paper could not get a truck to deliver more between a period of Thursday through Tuesday.

Mobley said this put the county in a bind, and plates had to be purchased elsewhere. To avoid this in the future, the commission voted to award a secondary

bid on 12 oz. foam cups, food trays and forks.

The secondary bid for 12 oz. foam cups and forks went to Creel Paper while Enterprise Paper and Janitorial received the secondary bid for food trays.

Commissioners received an update on the current situation of Coffee County EMS as Marvin McLwain, president and spokesperson for the board, addressed the group.

McLwain said Coffee County EMS is in a transition phase from a profit business to a non-profit organization. He said the organization currently serves the City of Elba and the western part of Coffee County.

"We want to assure you as a commission that any agreement you have will be honored at the price and terms of that agreement," McLwain said. "The desire and goal of the committee is to keep this service for the citizens."

He said a six-member board currently oversees the new non-profit organization, and all documentation to operate as a non-profit organization is in place.

In other business, the commission:

\* Approved a resolution authorizing the chairman to enter into agreement with the Department of Transportation to begin the process for resurfacing county roads 349, 306, 117, 639 and 603.

\* Approved a motion giving

Please See CCC, Page 11



A Coffee County School bus was involved in a three-vehicle accident Tuesday, Dec. 9, on County Rd. 223 while transporting students home from school. At the time of the accident, there were only three students on the bus being driven by Sue Hussey. The car directly behind the bus was driven by Sherrie Barker, and she was transported to a local hospital for what appeared to be only minor injuries. A third vehicle, driven by Shannon Bright, hit the rear of Barker's vehicle in the chain reaction incident; however, Bright was not injured. The students were at the front of the bus at the time of impact. They did not appear to be injured but were being treated for precautionary measures. State trooper Furukawa investigated.



## EDITORIAL

BRAINSTORMS  
with Ferrin Cox

Sunday, December 7th . . . it was an eerie feeling Sunday morning for us to think that what seems like only a few years ago WWII began on just such a December Sunday with the early morning surprise bombing of Pearl Harbor by the Japanese. The tranquil tropical scene in Hawaii was disrupted by death and destruction, yet it was only the bloody tip of the iceberg. Many thousands of families worldwide had their lives abruptly changed forever in the years following that fateful morning attack.

Last Tuesday night some "friends," namely members of the Elba Rotary Club, pulled off a surprise and presented yours truly with the first of what they expect to be an annual award for "Outstanding Professional and Civic Achievements to the Benefit of the Citizens of Elba." To say we were not flattered would be an insult to your intelligence and . . . well a lie. Most humans tend to enjoy being stroked occasionally and there is no exception in this corner.

However, an even stronger emotion this time is a bit of embarrassment at not feeling the honor was really earned, nor deserved. You see, we are when many of these lofty undertakings are being hatched and/or during the grueling hours of making them become a reality. Therefore there is a keen awareness of how little (if any) our personal input contributes to the ultimate success of these projects. No one person should get all the credit because it takes a group effort to do most of these things. In fact we strongly believe that if one is in it for the honor, that person is in the way (and often very ineffective). Also we honestly feel that there are so many others who better measure up to the goals set by the Elba Rotarians. To refuse the honor would be rude and unforgivable . . . unthinkable, so we graciously accept the award, but on behalf of all the good, unselfish and caring folks we continue to work with "for the benefit of the citizens of Elba." That includes quite a number of the Rotarians instrumental in this presentation. Elba still needs many things and we stand ready to bear the cross with each of you tomorrow, tomorrow and tomorrow. And our humble thanks to all the members of Elba Rotary Club, past and present.

The Medicare expansion bill which President Bush just signed leaves us with mixed emotions. Being in the senior citizen category, we are perked up over the potential payment of our prescription drugs. Being a bit of a fiscal conservative (some describe us as tight with our tad of money) we are concerned over the negative impact this will have on the federal budget. America is already spending more than the treasury is taking in . . . by billions of dollars. Somewhere down the line our children and grandchildren will have to pay for this deficit spending. Already so many millions of tax dollars are going to pay interest on money borrowed in past years, dollars which could be going to these much needed or politically popular projects.

As usual civilization has gone overboard with something. It is either a rash of westerns, comics, sitcoms, cop shows, on TV. Eating or not eating certain foods; the list goes on and on. Now there are complaints of overexposure to Christmas songs. In New York a group was complaining this week about all day carols on the radios. Don't these folks know how to use the on-off switch if they are tired of what is being played? Maybe they just want something to complain about. In Austria, the home of much beautiful music, including classic Christmas songs, labor union folks are threatening strike if such music is not curtailed in stores. In fact Austria is showing real signs of Scrooge as citizens complain, complain, complain about what has been generations of Christmas traditions.

## Elba Police Report

The Elba Police Department, beginning Monday, Dec. 1, 2003, investigated the following incidents: one lost cellular telephone, one private property accident, one harassment, two for theft of property, three for criminal mischief, one possession of marijuana, one domestic dispute, one possession of a controlled substance, one possession of drug paraphernalia, one death, one incident and one burglary.

The following arrests were made: one for failure to pay. Traffic citations issued during the week were as follows: five for speeding, one for driving with a revoked driver's license, two for an expired tag and one for driving with a suspended driver's license.

Daily activity highlights for the week were as follows: **MONDAY, DEC. 1** - River stage - 8.24 feet (6:00 a.m.); Two-vehicle wreck reported on East Davis St. at Brunson Mini-Storage (6:37 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to the wreck on East Davis St. (6:37 a.m.); Elba Fire Department dispatched to standby at the wreck on East Davis St. (6:37 a.m.); Minor wreck reported in the

Fred's parking lot (3:09 p.m.).

**TUESDAY, DEC. 2** - River stage - 7.69 feet (6:24 a.m.); Domestic disturbance reported at the corner of Putnam and Williams St. (3:29 p.m.).

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 3** - River stage - 7.20 feet (6:18 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 360 Dr. Roberts Drive (11:21 a.m.); Routine activity.

**THURSDAY, DEC. 4** - River stage - 6.81 feet (6:17 a.m.); Routine activity.

**FRIDAY, DEC. 5** - River stage - 6.91 feet (6:16 a.m.); Wreck (dump truck vs. power pole)

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**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**  
Coffee County & Surrounding Counties - \$19 per year  
6 Months - \$10, including city & state tax  
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## WARNING!!

Check with your local law enforcement agency on the legitimacy of organizations seeking donations during this season of the year.

## BULLETIN BOARD

**ABUSING CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES THROUGH CHRIST A.R.M.S.**, addiction recovery ministry services - Thurs., 7 p.m. - 1st Baptist Church, Call 565-9970 or visit the website: www.inobaptist.com

**SOCIAL SECURITY REP.** Courthouse 4th Tues. 12:30-1:30. Call FREE 1-800-772-1213  
**ROTARY CLUB** - Tuesday @ Noon-First First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall  
**ELBA CITY COUNCIL** - 2nd & 4th Monday - 6 p.m. - City Hall

**WATER & ELECTRIC** - Tuesday following 2nd Monday 6 p.m. - City Hall  
**ELBA MINISTERIAL ASSN.** Tues. - 8 a.m. Elba United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall

**GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP** - every Monday 6:30 p.m. Elba United Methodist Church center on side on W. Davis St. Magic Carpet Classroom  
**COFFEE COUNTY COMMISSION** - 2nd & 4th Monday - Community Room in Farm Center Complex @ New Brockton

**LIONS CLUB** - 2nd & 4th Tues. 6:30 p.m. Senior Citizen Center  
**ELBA CITY SCHOOL BOARD** - 1st Thurs. - 5:30 p.m. - Supp. Office  
**AMERICAN LEGION** - 1st Tuesday of every month 7:00 p.m. Legion Hall, Troy Hwy.

**WAXONIC LODGE** - 170 - 1st & 3rd Monday of each month 7 p.m. - **BAND ROOSTERS** - 1st Mon. - 7 p.m. Band Room @ Elba High School  
**VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER** - Mon-Fri. 8:12 noon & 12:30 - 4:30 New Brockton @ Farm Center Complex 894-5858

**COFFEE COUNTY COON HUNTERS ASSN.** - 3rd Sat. - 3 p.m. Club House  
**COFFEE WOMEN** - 3rd Wed. Noon - Coffey Inc. Enterprise

**ELBA AIRPORT AUTHORITY** - 2nd Thursday at noon, Driscoll Hangar at the Airport  
**ELBA ATHLETIC CLUB** - 1st & 3rd Monday - 7 p.m. - Elba High Boys locker room

**NEW SEASONS STUDY CLUB** - Every 3rd Tuesday at 7 p.m.

This space made possible by National Security Insurance Co.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

This letter comes during the holiday season when frustrations sometimes run high. We want to remind readers to not only give gifts of food to those who are in need, but also give your time. New parents and parents of disabled children especially need a break from the constant care they must give their children. You can help by calling someone you know and offering to babysit for a couple of hours while they shop or simply get out of the house themselves. You could even give them a "gift certificate" for babysitting.

Although it's only two hours of your time, you could have saved a life. Many parents who abuse do it out of frustration. So, give them a break this holiday season and offer your time instead of a gift.  
**Happy Holidays,**  
Anita A. Drummond, MS, LPC  
Prevent Child Abuse Alabama Executive Director

EXPRESS YOUR VIEWS  
WRITE A  
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Enterprise-Ozark Community College  
Spring Semester News:

Here's what is needed to know about Spring Semester at Enterprise-Ozark Community College:

• Students can register now!  
• Current students with a Personal Identification Number can register on-line or by telephone.

• New students can register at any EOCC location: Enterprise Campus, Ft. Rucker Site, Ozark Aviation Campus, or Mobile Aviation Center.

• Classes begin January 9.

• Registration in person at any location through December 19 and January 5-8.

• Access the EOCC 2004 Spring Semester Class Schedule and 2003-2004 Catalog at the website: www.eocc.edu

For more information call: the Enterprise Campus at 347-2623, ext. 2234, the Ft. Rucker Site at 598-3438, the Ozark Aviation Campus at 774-5113, or the Mobile Aviation Center at 251-438-2816.

*Card of Thanks*  
The family of  
**ALIENE PAUL ENGLISH**  
would like to thank all the people of Elba and Coffee County for the help and expressions of sympathy received in our dealing with her loss.  
We are especially indebted to the benevolent committee at the First Baptist Church who provided food for the family.

## Obituaries

## ALIENE PAUL ENGLISH

Mrs. Aliene Paul English, age 91, of Elba, Ala., died Dec. 3, 2003 at the Elba Nursing Home. Funeral services were held Dec. 7, 2003 from the Chapel of Hayes Funeral Home in Elba with Rev. Mart Gray officiating. Burial followed in Evergreen Cemetery of Elba with Hayes Funeral Home directing.

Survivors include one son: LTC Paul L. (Marianne) English, Tuscaloosa, Ala.; two grandsons: six great-grandchildren; several nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Palbearers will be Col. Paul English Jr., Dr. Jeffery H. English, Michael English, David English, Keith English and Brice Paul.

Honorary pallbearers will be the staff of the Elba Nursing Home, Taylor Mill, Oaks Assisted Living, and doctors and nurses of Elba General Hospital.

The family request that in lieu

of flowers donations be made to the Elba Nursing Home or a charity of your choice.

## ELLIS LEE EDDINS

Mr. Ellis Lee Eddins, age 91, of Elba, Ala., died Dec. 7, 2003 at Elba Nursing Home.

Funeral services were held Dec. 9, 2003 from the Chapel of Hayes Funeral Home in Elba with Rev. Jimmy Eddins and Rev. Marcus Ramer officiating. Burial followed in the Evergreen Cemetery of Elba with Hayes Funeral Home directing.

Survivors include three sons:

**Pre-need funeral planning now available at Hayes Funeral Home**  
For details Call 897-2225

Randy Eddins, Jimmy Eddins and Edward Eddins, all of Elba; one daughter: Wayne Harrison Singleton, New Brockton; two sisters: Irene Blackmon, Ocala, Fla., Grace Marler Lee, Elba; four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**GRACE G. BENZ**  
Grace G. Benz of Downey, Calif.; died December 4, 2003. Funeral services were held

December 10, 2003 at the Hope Chapel, Forest Lawn, Cypress. She was preceded in death by one brother, William Grantham. Survivors include one daughter: Karen Reese, Downey, Calif.; one son: Joseph Bullard, Downey, Calif.; one step-daughter: Kim Mishmash; one sister: Patsy Lee, Elba; one brother: Buck Grantham, Elba; four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

## CARD OF THANKS

**DANIELS FAMILY**  
The family of **ARKES O.B. DANIELS** would like to express our sincere thanks for the prayers, visits and the many acts of kindness shown during O.B.'s illness and passing.

Words cannot convey our appreciation and gratitude. God bless you.  
Mrs. Corene W. Daniels  
Kenneth Daniels & Beverly Daniels-Hamilton  
12-11pd

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IT HAPPENED THIS WEEK!

In 1895, twenty-one-year-old Guglielmo had successfully transmitted his first radio signal.

On December 6, 1901 Guglielmo Marconi and two assistants, George Kemp and Percy Paget, arrived in St. John's Newfoundland. Their trip was the final step in a \$250,000 (\$5,000,000 in today's dollars) gamble. If successful, Marconi would revolutionize worldwide communications.

Six days later, he and his assistants were in the Cabot Tower atop Signal Hill. A short walk from downtown, the tower overlooked the North Atlantic. Sitting at a table, Marconi used a headset to listen to the radio in front of him. He hoped to hear the letter "S" transmitted in Morse code from a station in Cornwall, England, 1,800 miles to the east.

Marconi was gambling that most scientists, who believed that radio waves traveled in a straight line, were wrong. Marconi believed they followed the curvature of the earth. If he were right, he would hear the signal from Cornwall. At 12:30 P.M., he heard it. He then passed the headset to

George Kemp, who also heard it. Twice more that afternoon, they heard the letter repeated. The revolution had started.

In 1895, twenty-one-year-old Guglielmo, who was the son of a wealthy Italian businessman and an Irish whiskey heiress, had successfully transmitted his first radio signal. The first time, he sent it a few hundred yards across a field on his parents' Italian estate. Within a few months, he was transmitting messages a mile or more, and approached the Italian Post and Telegraph Service for financial support. They told him his invention had no commercial value.

His mother then took him to England, where he obtained a patent for wireless communication. After displaying wireless telegraphy in England and Italy, he started the Wireless Telegraph and Signal Company in 1897. By the turn of the century, Marconi was sending messages more than fifty miles, but the belief wireless communications had a limited range was hindering his business.

That tragedy occurred at 11:40 P.M. on April 14, 1912, when the Titanic struck an iceberg off the coast of Newfoundland. Equipped with a wireless telegraph, operators began broadcasting distress signals within twenty minutes of the collision. Less than three hours after its collision, the great ship slipped beneath the waves. Over 1,500 lives were lost that night, but another 705 survived.

Echoing the world's feelings about the catastrophe, British postmaster-general Herbert Samuel said: "Those who have been saved, have been saved through one man, Mr. Marconi, and his marvelous invention."

NEXT WEEK: When "Merry" and "Christmas" were first used in the same phrase.

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# SCHOOLS

## FROM THE COCKPIT

New Brockton School News  
Sponsors: Lori Cotney & Tracy Whittaker

### FFA chapter enjoying successful year

by Sonya Hornsby

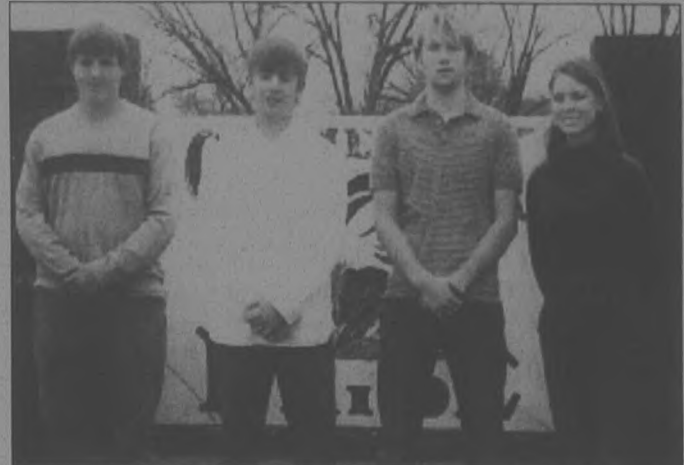
Our FFA chapter has given us something to rave about recently. This year has been a year of success. FFA students have learned that hard work pays off. The Livestock team went to State Competitions and brought home the win. They were the State Champions for Livestock. The members of the team are Chelsea Hollis, Layton Griffin,

Drew Donaldson, and Mark Windham. Since they were Alabama's Number One Team, they were qualified to go and compete at the National level at the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Ky. They had to compete against 46 other state-champion teams, and they represented the State of Alabama well. It took lots of hard work to get

them where they are, and it surely paid off. The trip to Kentucky was an all-expense-paid trip. Another accomplishment was the invitation to set up an exhibit at the Alabama National Fair. Jonathan Bryant and Nicholas Estes had the privilege of setting the exhibit up in Montgomery. The theme for this year was "Living the Legacy." FFA at 75.

FFA students worked on the exhibit for almost a month. They did a history of our chapter since 1991. They put in a lot of hard work, and they were delighted to hear that their exhibit placed third and won \$500.

In addition to being named State Champions for Livestock and their success at the Alabama State Fair Exhibit, our FFA chapter was named one of the Top 5 FFA chapters in the state.



**ON THE ROAD.....to FFA Nationals** - On October 27, Mark Windham, Drew Donaldson, Layton Griffin and Chelsea Hollis left from the parking lot of NBHS on route to Louisville, Ky. Their mission: to represent the State of Alabama at the National FFA Competition in Livestock Judging. Although this bunch, led by Mr. Gunter, didn't bring back trophies, they brought back memories that can last a lifetime and the honor of being those few who have represented the N. B. H. S. FFA at the national level. Layton Griffin said, "It was cool because I saw people from all 50 states." The highlight of the trip for some was getting to go watch the horses race at Churchill Downs. For those of you who are unaware of what that is, it is where they race the Kentucky derby. After all was said and done, Chelsea Hollis told me, "It was altogether a fun trip and I was honored to represent Alabama."

### Q&A: Being a Coach's Wife

**Q: How do you feel about being a coach's wife?**  
A: I feel like I have to be a coach's wife. I recently had her answer some questions about what it's like to be a coach's wife.

What's it like to be a coach's wife? First I have to mention that since Bren and I married in March, we have not had the typical husband-wife relationship. I work evenings as a radiology technician. I wasn't home when Bren came in from football practice. Our evenings revolved around phone calls and our Saturdays included relaxing and watching college football. Sundays we went to church and from there Bren had to rush to New Brockton to watch football until dark. We made it through one football season together, I am pretty sure we can make it through another one. During the week, when I would talk to Bren on the phone, I could hear from the tone of his voice if there was a good or bad practice. It didn't hear a lot about the good practices. It was the bad practices that I heard about. He would tell me how things happened and I would tell him how he could fix them. Now, whether he took my advice and used it on the football field, I may never know.

How are things New Brockton wins? How are things when New Brockton loses? With a New Brockton win, as with a New Brockton loss, things around the house were pretty much the same. When there was a win, naturally Bren was pleased. And he wouldn't be upset at a loss. No matter what the outcome of the game Bren would sit at our kitchen table and review plays and search out a better way to run a particular play.

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### N.B.H.S. Students of the Month



**Whitney Donaldson** - Whitney is the daughter of Bernice and Josephine Donaldson of New Brockton. She is actively involved in FFA, Beta Club, Spanish Club, Science Club, and she is also a member of the Varsity Cheerleading squad and the Lady Gamecocks Volleyball team.

**Travis Arrington** - Travis is a Junior and is the son of James and Wanda Arrington of Chancellor. He is a member of FFA, and works for WKNI, posting news of their web page.

**Heather Carroll** - Heather is a senior at NBHS and is the daughter of Greg and Debra Carroll of New Brockton. She is the FCCLA President, 2003 State FCCLA 1st Vice President, Sr. Beta Club President, Historian/Publicist for Tri-M, and is a member of the Advisory Council Science Club, SGA, and the 2003 National Winning Meat Judging Team.

**Starring:** Keanu Reeves, Carrie-Anne Moss, Laurence Fishburne, Hugo Weaving, and Jada Pinkett Smith.

**Directors:** Andy and Larry Wachowski.

Well, what to say. The Matrix Revolutions was possibly the most anticipated movie of the year, next to Lord of the Rings: Return of the King. And I'll have to say, it lived up to its expectations. Revolutions picks up exactly where Reloaded left off. Smith (Hugo Weaving) is growing even closer to controlling the Matrix and the real world. The machine army is on its way to destroy the last human city, Zion. And Zion's only hope, Neo (Keanu Reeves) lies in a coma aboard a ship. Believing that Neo is some-



**TOP READERS...** These New Brockton Elementary School students already have acquired over 100 points in the accelerated reader program. They are (from left): Justin Farris, Seth Culverhouse, Adrianna Lee, Cassidy Moore and Stephanie Beavers. Not pictured is Alexis Hall.

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### Students bring home first place from National 4-H Meat Judging Competition

by Freda Kelley

Two of New Brockton's very own, Heather Carroll and John Sawyer, traveled to Kansas City, Mo., to compete in meat judging for Coffee County 4-H. Their team brought home first place and a national title that was their school, county, and state is very proud of!

To start their trip off, Heather, John and the rest of the team traveled to Auburn University to spend three hours in a meat locker practicing. After two days at Auburn they traveled to Atlanta to catch their flight to Kansas City, Missouri.

Before the contest day, as you can imagine, they put in long hours of practice. They went from store to store checking out cuts of meat. One store almost kicked them out for taking pictures! After going to six stores they finally got to have some fun. They spent the next few hours at the mall shopping and just looking around!

The day of the competition was a day full of mixed emotions for the team. They traveled to Kansas State University and prepped themselves for what was to follow.



John Sawyer and Heather Carroll

Before they competed they had to be sure they were dressed "appropriately", which included an extremely thick meat jacket, a white over jacket on top of it, gloves, a hairnet, and a hard-hat on top of that!!!

The team was all relieved after the contest. On the day of the awards they were all nervous. The team ended up winning first in the nation by 13 points!!!

Then it was time for the long journey home. I heard that some people hardly woke up until they arrived in Auburn!

Both Heather and John believe this trip benefited them richly. Heather said, "The trip overall was a collage of hard-work and determination mixed in with fun! We all as a team enjoyed what we were doing and being with each other! Aside from all the practicing we did, we enjoyed some downtime. True winning first was a great accomplishment, but the time spent, the hard-work dedicated to the

team, and the determination we all had made it mean more to us all!"

Heather and John would like to give some credit to their leaders. Dr. William R. Jones is the head of the Meat Sciences Department at Auburn University. He accompanied them on the trip and served as a co-instructor, along with Extension agent Stan Windham.

However, this is Dr. Jones' last year serving as head of his department. The team would not have been able to make it to Kansas and win without Dr. Jones and Mr. Stan's insight and guidance. They believe they owe a great debt of gratitude to them.

Heather and John's combined years of experience totals over 13 years of judging meat. John said, "Me, Heather, Carrie, and Ann, the team, regret that this has to be our last time around, but don't regret the experience, the people, or the effect this has had on our character."

### Elementary Canned Food Drive

by Kristin Wood and Justin Griswold

The New Brockton Elementary S.G.A. is holding a Can Food Drive. It will start Monday, Dec. 8, and end Friday, Dec. 12. The whole school will participate by bringing canned foods to school. The S.G.A. will donate all the food to the Christian Mission.

### Language arts students write poems

Students in Mrs. Diane English's Language Arts class recently wrote color poems. They are as follows:

**Green** by Adam Pope  
The soft grass outside  
The roaring of a lawn mower  
Freshly cut grass  
The west grass between my toes  
A cup of refreshing kiwi fruit juice

**Red** by Krista Thomas  
Santa  
Jolly and fat  
Rose  
A folder  
T-shirt  
Red  
Is the color of an evening sky

**Blue** by Missy Osborn  
The calm ocean  
Loud thunder  
The sour smelling of gummy sharks  
My soft jacket  
The scrumptious blueberry muffins  
Blue  
Is the color of the sky

**Orange** by Shelby Brown  
Fire  
Raging-Wild and Free  
The Sunset  
Cantalope  
Tangerines  
Orange  
Is the color of a fiery hot day.

**Blue** by Cassidy Moore  
The care free sky  
A restless river running  
The aroma of a salty sea  
Sadness of creeping death  
Cheerful fresh blueberry pie just for me  
Blue

**Green** by Brittany Whitehead  
The outside world in summer  
The crunching of leaves under your feet  
The delight of a florist  
The stick briars in your finger  
The joy of cabbage on Sunday Green

**White** by Adina Smith  
The brightness of an angel,  
her voice as soft as the wind.  
Her perfume of white musk.  
The clouds of velvet in the sky.  
Roasted marshmallows on a cold night.  
White

**Black** by Shane Wilkerson  
The shadow of a dark mob car  
The whining of brakes  
Just fired gun smoke  
A leather coat with hard stain  
The bitterness of half eaten licorice stick  
Black

**Black** by Tevin McNair  
The dark silence of the night sky  
Black

# SCHOOLS

### EES Talent Pool students complete quest

by Ayonna Procter

The members of the Elba Elementary School Talent Pool were on a quest. A manners quest to be exact. The event was one similar to a scavenger hunt. Each student has to cooperatively participate in six manners quest.

Quest 1: "BURRP" (Manners, Who Needs 'em?)

Quest 2: "Hello, I'm..." (Introductions)

Quest 3: "RING, RING, 'Will You Answer that, Please?" (Telephone Manners)

Quest 4: "Please pass the..." (Table Manners)

Quest 5: "Oh, you shouldn't have!" (Thank You Notes)

Quest 6: "Yes, Mr. President" (Official Protocol)

Everyone had to quietly pursue the quest box. If anyone ran, talked above a whisper, argued or refused to cooperate, he or she would be ineligible to complete the quest box search.

The students had to demonstrate the manners/skills found in each quest box. Five practice activities from the manners quest menu had to be completed.



Talent Pool students learn manners to last a lifetime

After the activities, a manners competition was held. Each student either led a manners lesson in another classroom or composed a page in a manners manual to be given to their peers.

The goals of everyone who participated were to learn and practice good manners for a different amount of settings and situations and to make good manners a lifelong practice.

### Student Spotlight

by Katie Driggers

This week's student spotlight is Miss Lacy Jane Carlie.

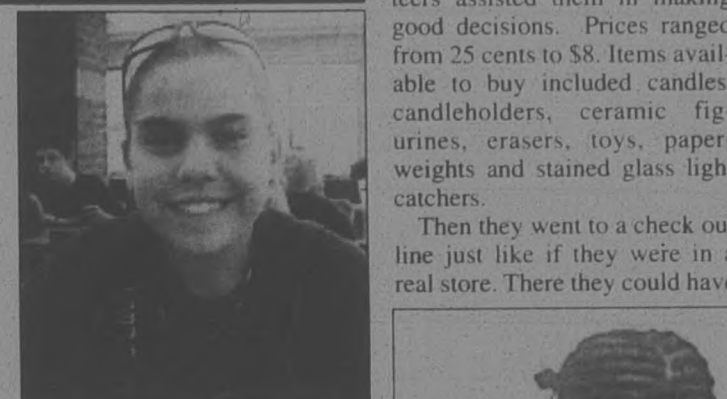
Lacy is the 17-year-old daughter of Ricky and Debbie Carlie. She is a senior at Elba High School and involved in many organizations including the Spanish Club, Beta Club, Mu Alpha Theta, Ambassadors, Lady Tiger Softball, and vice president of the Future Farmers of America.

Outside of school Lacy enjoys swimming, horseback riding and riding four wheelers. Her favorite hobby is playing for a fast pitch softball tournament team.

Being chosen for a tournament team is a very high honor. It is like being recruited to play for a college.

Lacy says, "Being on a tournament team was a fun experience for me, but it was also a great learning experience. I became a more disciplined athlete, while learning many new things about fast pitch softball."

Congratulations Lacy and keep up all your hard work!



Lacy Carlie

Lacy is a member of the Elba Elementary School Talent Pool. She is a member of the Vocational and Industrial Clubs of America, and after graduation, Quentin plans on attending Florida State University. There, he intends to major in business management and learn more about welding.

Congratulations, Quentin, on being this week's Co-Op Spotlight!

### Co-Op Spotlight

by Mary Katherine Head

This week's Co-Op Spotlight is Quentin Robinson, the 18-year-old son of Freddie and Tracey Robinson and a senior here at Elba High.

Quentin is employed by Dorsey Trailers Incorporated, where he is a welder.

When Quentin's not working, he also enjoys playing basketball and just having fun. He is a member of the Vocational and Industrial Clubs of America, and after graduation, Quentin plans on attending Florida State University. There, he intends to major in business management and learn more about welding.

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Quentin Robinson

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK...I wonder where Mason's going?

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## Tiger Tales

Editors:  
Brittany Cooper  
& Alex Allen

### Junior class completes magazine sales

by Jessica Danford

For the past three and a half weeks, the juniors have been selling magazines to raise money for the prom, and every junior did his/her part in raising the thousands of dollars for prom.

The junior class sponsor, Mrs. Kathy Fattie, made a deal with the juniors that if they sold quota, which was \$15,000, they could dye her hair any color they wanted to! At the end of the

three and a half weeks, the junior class sold \$14,824.16.

The top sellers were:  
1st. Lyndsey Lawford  
2nd. Jennifer Waters  
3rd. Alison Smith

Congratulations to the junior class for all of their hard work so they can have a really great prom!

And speaking for the senior class, even though you all didn't make quota, we are still proud of you for raising that much money!

### Christmas Family Fun Night set for Dec. 11 at E.E.S.

by Anna Harrison

Christmas Family Fun Night is Thursday, Dec. 11, from 6-7 p.m.

Children are invited to celebrate the season by making ornaments for the school tree. Several teachers will be conducting these crafting classes.

Parents are invited to join their children in the ornament "how-to" classes, or they may opt to attend a workshop with school personnel that will introduce and explain strategies and activities that can be applied at home to increase students' reading achievement.

Light refreshments will be served. All who attend will receive step-by-step directions for home crafting to make all the ornaments presented during the evening.

To register call the Elba Elementary School office.

### Elba Elementary's Kids' Korner Gift Shoppe proves successful

by Christy Eubanks

The Kids' Korner Gift Shoppe proved to be a success.

Children were allowed to come in and shop while volunteers assisted them in making good decisions. Prices ranged from 25 cents to \$8. Items available to buy included candles, candleholders, ceramic figurines, erasers, toys, paperweights and stained glass light catchers.

Then they went to a check out line just like if they were in a real store. There they could have

their gifts wrapped.

The gift shop offered them the chance to make good shopping decisions. It also taught them that giving could be just as important and just as fun as receiving.

The success of the Kids' Korner Gift Shoppe would not have been possible without the support of the community and Mrs. Lynn Baker.

Thank you for supporting Elba Elementary in their efforts to teach the young students valuable life lessons.



These students look at a wide variety of gifts offered at the Kids' Korner Gift Shoppe.

### School Reminders:

by Brittany Cooper

- Juniors who need to pay in order to attend the prom should pay by Thursday, Dec. 18.
- Seniors who need to pay in order to attend the prom should pay by Tuesday, Jan. 6.
- VICA members who want a t-shirt, sign up in Mr. Lawford's room. Cost is \$9.25 and \$10.25.
- Jr. Beta members: Deadline for paying the \$20 fee for convention is Wednesday, Dec. 17.
- The Christmas party (Jr. Beta & Chi Alpha Mu) at Mrs. Davis' home is Friday, Dec. 12, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Bring finger food, \$5 gift and one can of food.

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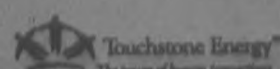
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## SPORTS

Views from...

## The Pressbox

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

One Christmas tradition that comes to the Mularz house late every afternoon involves turning on the various decorations and seeing just which lights won't come back on. At least one strand of lights on the tree or one smaller lighted decoration fails to light up almost every afternoon, and while it usually takes only a few minutes to get everything back on, after a few days turning on the lights gets to be an adventure. Guess working with the lights is one tradition we try to forget from year to year.

## FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH...

\*\*\* The Elba Tigers evened their record at 3-3 Saturday night with an overtime win over New Brockton, and while the win was big and gave the Elba fans bragging rights over their neighbors from across the county, it wasn't the best of weeks for the Tigers as they dropped two of three games at home. The Tigers scored only 51 points in a loss to Opp and followed it with a 37-point performance in a defeat to Enterprise, then scored only 43 points during regulation in the overtime win over the Gamecocks. Elba has played well enough on the defensive end to have a few more wins on the season, but the Tigers lack of scoring punch has kept all their games close and has been a factor in all three losses. The Tigers do have three players that can score from the inside and have enough muscle to bang bodies with any team on their schedule, but they also have some players that can run the court and shoot from behind the three-point line. Maybe soon the Tigers will find a happy medium and the points will mount as the wins add up.

\*\*\* The Elba Lady Tigers rebounded from one of their worst losses ever to pound New Brockton on Saturday night to claim their first win of the young season. The Lady Tigers had been clobbered 82-30 on Thursday night in a nightmare, but bounced back against their neighbors from across the county and downed the Lady Gamecocks by over thirty points. It looks like the Elba girls aren't quite sure just what they supposed to do at times and go through spans when they lose their way to the basket. If they can settle in and learn their positions the guess here is that there are many more wins ahead for the Lady Tigers.

\*\*\* One of the surprise teams of the early season has been the Zion Chapel Rebels. While it is true the Rebels closed last week with a 1-4 record, the Rebels have played every team tough and could very well have at least three or four wins on their side of the ledger with a little luck. Luke Taylor has emerged as one of the area's top scorers and is a threat from both sides of the three-point line, while the Rebels play very aggressive on defense and really get after their opponents. Keep an eye on the guys from up in Jack, they might just have a few surprises up their sleeves.

\*\*\* I went up to Birmingham Saturday morning to support Luverne in their bid to bring home a state championship and braved wind chills in the 20's to cheer them on in the second half as a late rally fell just short. Luverne got pounded way back in its August opener by Opp and many felt Coach Mike Dubose was headed for another losing season, but somewhere along the line the Tigers bought into Coach Dubose's system and as the season rolled along they got better and better. Luverne was certainly not the most physical team to make the Super Six and it was among the youngest starting in key positions. However, Luverne showed true character in winning from a 21-0 halftime deficit to make it a game. My hat is off to Coach Dubose, his staff and his players for a great season, and for one day last week I was proud to be a Tiger fan.

\*\*\* It is amusing to sit back and watch the accusations flying around at Auburn, and all of a sudden it looks like Coach Tommy Tuberville may actually come out of the mess stronger than he was before. The board members, college president and athletic director that led the search to find Tuberville's replacement are now on the hot seat, and by the time the controversy ends Tuberville may get the last laugh when he comes to work and the others that tried to fire him are unemployed. As sunny as it might be for Tuberville at this time, I agree with former Auburn coach Terry Bowden when he said last week that the Auburn coach shouldn't gloat quite yet, because if powerful Auburn alum Bobby Bowden wants to change coaches, a change will take place.

\*\*\* All the Alabama fans are anxiously awaiting news about coaching changes at Tuscaloosa, and the rumor that is heard the most is that former Tide assistant Bill Oliver is coming home to take over the defense. I don't know what changes will take place, but I agree that unless Mike Shula makes changes in his staff his stay at Bama will be short, and not so sweet.

\*\*\* In closing...Ye Ole Polish Prognosticator hit on 5 of 6 state title picks last week to close out the season with a 334-56 record. The local newspaper had one of his best year's in quite some time, and even had a perfect week back during the regular season. Thanks for making things interesting, and giving area fans something to fuss about. Next season will be here before you know it and you will have an hard act to follow after your success this season.

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## Elba girls enjoy summer softball success

If you were to ask most sports fans when softball season ended they would reply late spring or early summer. While that answer would be correct for the majority of softball players all across the nation, for a trio of Elba girls last year's softball season lasted throughout the summer and carried them across the Southeast.

Lacy Carlile, a senior at Elba High School, played softball last summer with a fast-pitch tournament team named "Alabama Attack." The team, based out of Dothan, carried both a 16 and Under and a 12 and Under team to most tournaments, and Carlile was the oldest player on the 16 and Under squad. The team's schedule included a tournament in St. Louis, Missouri, in which the Attack placed third. The team claimed one tournament championship during the tournament season and placed in many others. Carlile was a centerfielder for the team and plans to play again this summer, before continuing her career in college. She is currently taking pitching lessons three times a week and hopes to be able to help the Lady Tigers as both an outfielder and a pitcher during the 2004 season.

Stephanie Baxley played throughout the summer on a 14 and Under tournament team



ELBA SOFTBALL STANDOUTS...these three Elba girls had big summers on the softball field playing with tournament teams. Pictured are (l-r) Stephanie Baxley, Lindsey Camley and Lacy Carlile.

named the "Patriots." The team is based out of Dothan and played in five tournaments during the summer, winning three and placing second in the other two. The team ended its season with a third place finish in the World Series at Niceville, Florida. Baxley was named to the Super 12 last season as a pitcher, but played both pitcher

and outfielder during the summer, and hopes to play both positions this season for the Lady Tigers. Lindsey Camley played with a 10 and Under team named the "Liberty Belles." The team was based out of Enterprise, and Lindsey was one of only two girls age nine that played on the team. The team won seven tour-

naments and placed second in four, and didn't place below second in any tournament for teams ages 10 and Under. Both times the team played in tournaments for older teams they placed third. Lindsey played both pitcher and outfielder on the team, and plans to continue her tournament career this summer.

## Zion Chapel suffers tough home loss to Floral Wildcats 69-62

The Zion Chapel Rebels hosted the undefeated Floral Wildcats Friday night and gave the highly-touted "Cats quite a scare before falling 69-62. The loss dropped Zion Chapel's record to 1-4, while Floral improved to 5-0 with the win.

Floral jumped out to a quick 3-0 lead with a three-point basket in the opening seconds of the first quarter, but the Rebels showed everyone in attendance that they had come to play as they scored the next seven points of the stanza to take a 7-3 lead with 5:55 remaining in the quarter. Abe Childs scored four points during the Rebel rally, while Josh Smith and Luke Taylor combined to hit on three of four free-throw opportunities. Zion Chapel moved ahead 15-7 with 3:03 left in the quarter after a driving lay-up by Josh Smith, and took its biggest lead of the quarter with 1:16 remaining when Smith connected on four free-throws over a nine-second span to give the Rebels a 20-11 advantage.

Floral scored the quarter's next eight points to cut the Rebel lead to 31-29 with 4:54 left in the half, and the Wildcats caught the Rebels at 34-34 with 3:27 left in the second quarter. A long three-pointer gave the Wildcats a 37-34 lead with 2:47 remaining, and Floral

Floral (69): Hobby 3, Joiner 11, Matthews 26, Williams 2, Schofield 2, Wilson 6, Thompson 12, Smiley 3, Gettis 3.

Z.C. (62): J. Smith 7, A. Smith 8, White 7, Taylor 20, Childs 15, Wise 2.

## Troy State rodeo team concludes season with finish in Kentucky

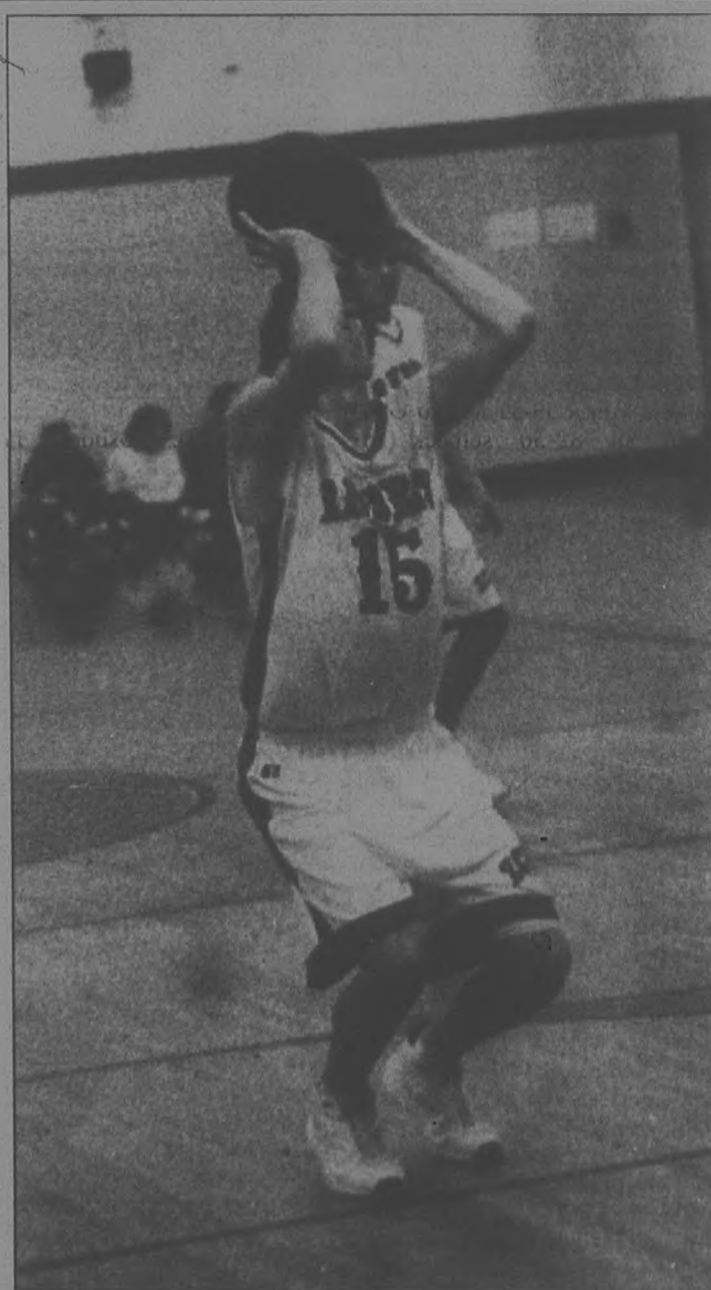
The Troy State rodeo team concluded its 2003 fall schedule

on Saturday in Murray, Ky., with its best finish of the season. Overall, the TSU men's team finished in third-place, with 180 points, while the TSU women's team finished in a tie for fourth-place, with 20 total points.

The men's team was led by junior Lance Arviso. Arviso took first-place in the steer wrestling event and teamed with sophomore John Perrett for second-place in the team roping event.

The Lady Trojans were led by senior Heather Jones in the breakaway roping event. Jones posted a time of 3.7 seconds in the long run and a time of 4.1 seconds in the short run. The 7.8 second average was good for a fourth-place overall.

The Murray State rodeo was the fall season finale for the TSU rodeo team. The team will be back in action Feb. 5-7, when they travel to Starkville, Miss., to compete at Mississippi State University.



Zion Chapel's Luke Taylor (15) eyes a free-throw during the Rebels' 69-62 loss Friday night to Floral. Taylor scored 20 points in the loss.

## Lady Rebels fell to Floral 60-13

The Zion Chapel Lady Rebels continued their early-season struggles Friday night with a 60-13 loss to the Floral Lady Wildcats, in Zion Chapel.

The loss dropped Zion Chapel's record to 0-4, while Floral improved its record to 7-0 with the win.

Neither team could find its way to the basket early in the opening stanza as the game scoreboard read 0-0 after nearly four minutes of play. The Lady Wildcats finally scored with 4:19 remaining on a three-point shot by Brittany Carson, while the Lady Rebels didn't score until only 55-seconds were left in the stanza as Shaun Ellis hit a short jumper to pull the Lady Rebels within 9-2.

Ellis hit a free-throw with 6:04 left in the second quarter to cut Floral's lead to 13-3. However, the Lady Rebels next points didn't come until 1:19 were left in the half when Nessa Wambles scored on a driving lay-up, and at the half Floral went in with a big 24-6 advantage.

Kim Rayborn and Nessa Wambles sparked a Lady Rebel rally midway through the third

Floral (60): Windham 3, Freeman 10, Campbell 3, Cobb 12, Williams 18, Carson 12. Z.C. (13): Rayborn 3, Wambles 6, Ellis 3, Senn 1.

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## SPORTS

## Even record at 3-3

## Tigers end week with 54-51 overtime win over New Brockton Gamecocks

The Elba Tigers hit the hardwood three times last week and claimed one win to end the week with a 3-3 record.

The Tigers opened the busy week of action on Tuesday night against the Opp Bobcats and dropped a 56-51 decision, then fell to Enterprise on Thursday night 50-37 before bouncing back Saturday night to post an exciting 54-51 overtime win over New Brockton.

"It was a busy week and we learned a lot about our team," stated Coach Karl Bledsoe. "We knew it would be a tough week against three good opponents, and knew we would have to play well for all four quarters in all of the games to have a chance to win. We did have a chance to win all the games, but didn't play well enough for thirty-two minutes and the result was two losses. This team has a good mixture of size and quick-

ness and has a lot of potential. However, most of the players have not played together on the varsity squad and it will take a little time for the team to develop a personality and get to know each other without having to wonder what a player is going to do in a certain situation. The schedule will not be easier over the coming weeks and we will compete in the Andalusia Christmas Tournament. So, we need to find that oneness soon and become a team no matter who might be on the floor. One thing is certain, we will work hard to improve and will play hard every time we take the court."

Following are highlights of last week's action:

**OPP 56 ELBA 51**  
The Elba Tigers hosted the Opp Bobcats last Tuesday night and never recovered from a disastrous fourth quarter as the Bobcats pulled ahead and then held on to leave town with a 56-51 win.

Quinton Gavin paced the Tiger offense both inside and from the corner in the opening stanza as he scored 9 points to help the Tigers sneak out to a 13-12 lead, while Kikko Logan muscled inside in the second stanza and led a balanced attack as Elba pulled ahead 33-27 at the half. The Tigers lost their shooting touch in the third quarter, however, and Opp took advantage of Elba's shooting woes to catch the Tigers and

then pull, out to a 45-41 lead. Mason Gulley sparked a late rally as the Tigers tried to catch the Bobcats, but it was too little, too late, as Elba suffered the home loss 56-51.

LaRay Williams scored 12 points to lead Elba, while Quinton Gavin added 11 and Mason Gulley scored 10. Daniel Coleman scored 18 points to lead Opp.

**OPP 56 ELBA 51**  
Hines 2, Lane 12, Hawkins 13, Coleman 18, Mount 11.

**ELBA 51 ELBA 37**  
The Elba Tigers hosted the Enterprise Wildcats on Thursday night and saw the 6A Wildcats pull away late to claim a 50-37 win over the Tigers, in front of a large and vocal crowd at the Elba High gym.

The Tigers came out ready to play against their cross-county rivals and pulled even at 6-6 with 4:20 remaining in the opening stanza on a basket by Matthew Curran, but Enterprise began to dominate late in the first quarter and grabbed its biggest lead of the half at 16-9 with 2:51 left in the second quarter. Elba got an inside bucket from Marchello Reed late to cut the Wildcats' lead to 16-13 at the half. However, Enterprise

opened the third quarter with a 10-5 run and regained command by opening up a 26-18 lead midway through the stanza. Two free-throws by Mason Gulley and back-to-back three-pointers by Quinton Gavin helped the Tigers cut the lead to 28-26, and with one stanza left the Tigers

were very much alive as they headed into the fourth quarter trailing only 30-26. Elba got as close as 34-33 with 4:05 left in the game after two free-throws by Marchello Reed, but two Tiger turnovers and a missed shot resulted in six straight Wildcat points, and the "Cats hit their free-throws down the stretch to ice the 50-37 win.

Quinton Gavin scored 14 points and Marchello Reed added 11 to lead Elba, while Dehonis Williams led the Wildcats with 14 points.

**E'prise 60 ELBA 37**  
Williams 9, Mann 7, Couch 8, Gray 7, Phillips 2, D. Williams 14.

Elba (37): Gulley 2, Williams

4, Gavin 14, Curran 4, Reed 11, Logan 2.

**ELBA 54 N.B. 51**

The Elba Tigers snapped a two-game losing streak and gave their fans bragging rights over their cross-county rivals Saturday night with an exciting 54-51 win over the New Brockton Gamecocks, in Elba. The Tigers took command early in the game and appeared ready to pull away after jumping out to a 14-7 lead in the opening quarter, but could never shake the pesky Gamecocks and watched as New Brockton slowly pulled back within striking distance. The Gamecocks cut the lead to 25-20 at the half and trailed only 35-32 heading into the final stanza; then caught the Tigers in the fourth quarter to send the game into overtime tied at 43-43. Elba's Mason Gulley scored seven points in the extra period to spark the Tigers and at the final horn Elba had finally managed to post the win 54-51.

Quinton Gavin scored 18 points to lead Elba, while Kikko Logan added 10. Brett Parrish scored 19 points to lead New Brockton and Rishawn Foster added 11.

**ELBA 54 ELBA 51**  
Gulley 7, Williams 7, Gavin 18, Curran 7, Reed 4, Logan 10, Rogers 1.

**N.B. 51 Stuckey 2, D. Foster 4, Lee 2, R. Foster 11, Fox 6, Parrish 19, Owens 7.**

## HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL SCHEDULES

## Thursday, Dec. 11

Andalusia Christmas Tournament  
(Elba & New Brockton) at Opp Jr. at Elba (5:00)

## Friday, Dec. 12

Andalusia Christmas Tournament

## Saturday, Dec. 13

Andalusia Christmas Tournament

## Monday, Dec. 15

Elba Jr. at Fleet (4:00)  
Samson at N.B. (4:30)

## Tuesday, Dec. 16

Elba at Straughn (4:30)

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Father/son enjoy football season together

Charlie Marler and 8-year-old son Ryan "Buck" completed their third football season together over the Thanksgiving weekend.

Over the past three years this father-son, coach and player, duo and the 95 pound division CenterPoint Wolfpack football team out of Birmingham have been defeated only one time! Last year the Wolfpack played a whopping 19 games and only gave up a total of 12 points, outscoring their opponents 283 to 12. This season the Wolfpack played 14 games and gave up only 21 points making them undefeated for the last two years.

Charlie considers himself very lucky to have such an outstanding group of young athletes on the team, and Ryan holds down the starting positions of defensive tackle, offensive center and all specialty teams.

The CenterPoint Wolfpack has also claimed the title for the Snapper Bowl Championship, held in Panama City Beach, Florida, for the last two years.

The Snapper Bowl begins each year on Thanksgiving Day and continues through Saturday afternoon. Teams from all over the United States participate each year in the bowl game.



Charlie and Ryan "Buck" Marler

Charlie graduated Elba High in 1983 and is the son of Carol and Rue Marler.

Ryan says that football is his

favorite sport and the only thing he enjoys more is fishing with his papa at his catfish pond in Elba.

### Riley awards funds to assist families of murder victims

Gov. Bob Riley has awarded \$80,275 to a Montgomery agency to help families of murder victims come to terms with their loss.

The Montgomery Angel House Counseling Center provides the service to residents in

31 central and south Alabama counties. The center, sponsored by Victims of Crime and Leniency operates a 24-hour assistance program.

"The trauma caused by the sudden loss of a loved one through a violent death can destroy lives and tear apart families," Riley said. "Angel House provides services to help families deal with the immediate shock of losing a family member and they continue to work with survivors to enable them to lead lives that are as normal as possible."

The program provides short and long-term grief counseling. Staff members also assist family

members with immediate tasks including funeral planning and notification, dealing with the media and any personal legal and insurance matters. Families are provided support in death investigations and court proceedings.

Counties served by Angel House are: Autauga, Barbour, Bullock, Butler Chambers, Chilton, Clarke, Coffee, Conecuh, Coosa, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Dallas, Elmore, Escambia, Geneva, Henry, Houston, Lee, Lowndes, Macon, Monroe, Montgomery, Perry, Pike, Randolph, Russell, Tallapoosa, Tuscaloosa and Wilcox.

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Annsley Padgett celebrates her fifth birthday

INSIDE

Ethan Lott bags his first deer

INSIDE

City of Elba holds annual Christmas Parade

# The Elba Clipper

Volume 107, Number 27

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, December 18, 2003

1 Section, 14 Pages

## Coffee County Sheriff's Department searching for church burglars

The Coffee County Sheriff's Department requests the help of local citizens in identifying the person(s) responsible for the recent rash of rural church burglaries within the county.

According to Coffee County Sheriff Ben Moates, there

have been six incidences reported since Sunday, Nov. 30, and almost all involved musical instruments and sound equipment being taken from the building. He said the church buildings also have suffered damage to doors and/or windows from forced entry by the burglars.

"All incidences are believed to have taken place during the nighttime hours with possibly the same group of associates involved," Moates said.

The rural churches reporting burglaries during this time frame have included:

\* Zoar Community Church, located on Coffee County Road

331 - burglary reported Sunday, Nov. 30, with \$3,200 worth of instruments and sound equipment stolen.

\* Jack Assembly of God parsonage, located on Coffee County Road 215 - burglary

reported Thursday, Dec. 11, with \$300 worth of household furnishings stolen and \$250 in damages to the building.

\* Mount Vernon Assembly of God Church, located on Coffee County Road 330 - burglary reported Friday, Dec. 12, with \$1,000 in damages to the building.

\* Coffee County Sheriff Ben Moates said.

\* Wooten Chapel Church, located on Coffee County Road 514 - burglary reported Saturday, Dec. 13, with \$550 worth of instruments and sound equipment stolen.

\* Holloway Tabernacle Assembly of God Church, located on Coffee County Road 639 - burglary reported Sunday, Dec. 14, with \$658.76 worth of

electronic equipment and U.S. currency stolen.

\* Faith Chapel Community Church, located on Coffee County Road 437 - burglary reported Monday, Dec. 15, with \$4,690 worth of instruments and sound equipment stolen and \$1,200 in damages to the building.

The public is encouraged to be aware not only of this criminal activity in the rural churches but also the vulnerability of the home in the county during the holiday season," Moates said. "Be aware of any unusual or suspicious activity or suspi-

cious person(s) around the homes, churches and rural businesses."

He said any person having knowledge of these recent burglaries or of any person having any of the musical instruments and/or sound equipment taken from these churches should call

the Coffee County Sheriff's Department at 894-5535, the Elba Police Department at 897-2555 or another local law enforcement agency.

Moates also encourages citizens to report any and all suspicious activity to their local law enforcement agency.

## Elba's new animal control shelter nearing completion

by Bethany Dye

With construction of the new city animal shelter well under way, the animal control department expects to soon be settling into its new facility.

"We're excited," animal control officer George Homyak said. "I think it's a stepping stone for animal control."

Animal control's headquarters had to be moved because the former location was in the way of construction of the new Toledo Molding and Die plant.

The new shelter, located on Boswell Street across from the Elba work release facility, will have housing capacity for 21 dogs—eight more than the old facility, said Homyak.

Other features of the new facility will include automatic watering systems and electricity in each pen and larger pen areas,



he said. The shelter has an open-air design, but the insulated roof, heat lamps and chicken house curtains will help keep the dogs warm in cold weather.

One part of the new facility that Homyak said he was looking forward to having is an office.

"I've never had an office before," he said.

Homyak said the office will be used to store some supplies, such as dog food, and will have space for his desk, so those wanting to adopt animals can fill out paperwork.

Homyak, who designed and drew the plans for the new shelter, said the construction is about 90 percent complete, and the facility should be ready some time in January.

"It's slow going right now," said city building inspector and the project's coordinator Troy Gideon. "There's a lot of climbing up and down ladders, and the ladder has to be moved in and out of each cage."

He said construction began around August, and city employees have been providing most of the labor.

"The street department and the recreation department have been helping," Gideon said. "Just whoever has a few minutes to spare."

In fact, city employees have performed all the work on the facility except for the fencing and concrete, which were contracted out, said city clerk Wayne Grantham.

Grantham's estimate of the final cost is \$12,000, not including the city employees' labor.

"I don't know," Grantham said. "It may be less than that, but we're not through with it, and we haven't gathered all the

As shown above, Elba's new animal shelter is nearing completion and should serve the city well for many years to come. Most of the construction work for this facility has been completed by City of Elba employees. Most excited about the new facility has to be animal control officer George Homyak who said he is looking forward to opening the new facility.

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## Elba City Council meeting Council accepts fire chief's resignation letter

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

The Elba City Council held two meetings on Tuesday evening, December 9th. This has become a December tradition as the city fathers strive to fulfill state laws requiring two monthly meetings.

In the first meeting the council gave final approval to the resolution supporting the Block Grant Float Loan for Dorsey Trailers. Mayor James Grimes explained that this loan supplements the previous economic development loan from the State of Alabama. There is no financial liability to the City. Dorsey Trailers posts the necessary securities to back up the low interest development loan.

Monthly bills totaling \$66,402.78 were approved for

payment. Police Chief R. W. Whitworth said the dog he has done great and earned his cost many times over.

During the second meeting the council gave final approval to an ordinance finalizing the municipal voting redistricting plan which recently received approval from the U. S. Justice Department. This redistricting plan will now be used in an future regular or special municipal elections.

Council members were given copies of the resignation of Larry Goodson as Chief of the Elba Volunteer Fire Department. They voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the firemen and named Danny

## Former Elba D.A.R.E. officer devoted to public service

by Linda Hodge, Editor

As former Elba Elementary School D.A.R.E. officer Dean Blair delivered the guest speaker's inspirational speech Friday, Dec. 12, during the sixth grade D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony at the elementary school, he described the opportunity as his

coming home" venture. Blair had been the program's D.A.R.E. instructor until the end of the 2002-03 school year when he accepted a new public service call and moved to criminal investigator for the Elba Police Department.

Soon thereafter, he answered another call for a career change and began working in November as a corrections officer for the State of Alabama Department of Corrections Elba Work Release facility.

Last Friday morning, Blair used his change in career and changes the D.A.R.E. program has undergone in the past year to inspire Elba Elementary School's sixth grade class.

Although it may not seem clear upfront, Blair said these type changes have a lot to do with D.A.R.E.

"As you face changes in life, you will make changes," Blair said. "I want you to become good decision makers."

Blair has devoted his career to public service, and said he could not think of anything else he would rather be doing.

His professional career began in 1986 as a corrections officer for the Coffee County Sheriff's Department. Since that time, he has worked as a deputy for the Coffee County Sheriff's Department, a patrolman for the Elba Police Department, the

Dean Blair, left, served as guest speaker at the 2003 Elba Elementary School sixth grade D.A.R.E. graduation last Friday, Dec. 12. Blair served as Elba's D.A.R.E. officer for several years before changing careers to become a corrections officer at the Elba Work Release facility. He is pictured above with Lillie Watson-Foster, warden of the Elba Work Release facility.

Please See BLAIR, Page 11

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## Area Happenings

**THE ELBA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** will have a Live Nativity on December 19, 30 & 31 on the vacant lot next to the church.

**THE COFFEE COUNTY COMMISSION** will hold its bi-monthly meeting Monday, Dec. 22, 9 a.m., in the community room of the county complex in New Brandon.

**THE TOWN OF NEW BRIDGETON OFFICES** will be closed Wednesday, Dec. 24, and Thursday, Dec. 25, in observance of the Christmas holiday. To report an emergency, call the New Brandon Police Department at 894-5535.

**THE TOWN OF NEW BRIDGETON** will present a Youth Christmas Vacation program to New Brandon in January, Jan. 24, and Sunday, Jan. 25. The Youth Vacation will feature a variety of activities. More details will be available as plans are finalized.

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He said using city employees for the labor has saved the city a significant amount of money.

"Had we contracted it out, it would already have been built," Grantham said, "but it would have cost three or four times more than what it will cost."

Before the building process began, the mayor, city clerk and city council approved Homyak's plans.

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